



Alpha Battery,1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery 30 January 2010 Newsletter Class 14-10 Week 2



Sir or Ma'am.

Hello again from Ft. Sill Basic Combat Training. Alpha Battery is rolling along and we are currently in week 2 of training! Last week was a motivated week of training. The weather turned on a dime here at Ft. Sill. We went from 60-70's for daily highs to an ice storm followed by snow and intermittent power over the last two days. This morning the Soldiers are completing their CLS (combat lifesaver) training after losing power for a day. In today's army, every Soldier is CLS certified and it has greatly enhanced Soldier's survivability on the battlefield. Your Soldier learned lifesaving techniques that if necessary he will be able to apply in combat to save a fellow Soldier's life, perhaps my own. The culminating event of the CLS certification process is a live IV stick on their buddy! IV fluids are crucial for a casualty and by gaining this valuable experience here in training, Soldiers will perform this lifesaving measure when lives are on the line!

On Tuesday the Soldiers trained on enhancing survivability in a CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) environment. "Dirty Bombs" are a true threat overseas and being able to protect one from these attacks is the first line of defense. The CBRN training ended with a trip to our CS Gas Chamber! In the gas chamber, Soldiers

learn just how important their gas mask is when they have to take it off and be exposed to the sting of "tear gas". Soldiers then exit the chamber and recover as the sweet Oklahoma clear air fills back in their lungs! This may sound dangerous, but rest assured that the gas chamber has been used for training for years and it builds confidence in your protective equipment. I once had an NCO go through the chamber without a mask because he loved it back in Ft. Riley. He was a little crusty...been around for a while. The Soldiers were brave and I was happy with their performance. I am sure your Soldier will be able to tell you all about the Gas Chamber on Family Day!

I need to clarify a few things for Family Day. If you plan to make the trip to Ft. Sill, I encourage you to attend the Family Day on the 18th. On Family Day, we will welcome you to the area, have a few remarks, and a brief Soldier demonstration. You will see your Soldier for the first time and they will be afforded the opportunity to go on pass for the day and be back to the Battery that night. Family Day allows you some more time with your loved ones after the 10 long weeks they have been away from you! I will send out more information about Family Day and Graduation Day complete with maps and lodging suggestions next week. If you do not receive the local lodging notes and map let me know with the Subject line: "Lodging and Map" so I can resend it right away. This helps me to better manage mail and response time, obviously, mail from the Colonel takes priority, but I will get back to you!

Next week is the week that training really picks up speed! We start BRM (Basic Rifle Marksmanship) and for 9 of the next 10 days, we will be on the firing line sending "rounds down range". The Soldiers





are excited and I am anxious to see how they perform and qualify. They will learn how to engage and shoot targets, some for the first time in their life.

My XO has been making updates on the Facebook page while I update the blog site. You will find picture of the Soldiers in the album located in Facebook. Again, those pictures are randomly taken as we can get good shots of the Soldiers so keep a lookout for yours.

Again, thank you for the support you give me and your Soldiers! I look forward to meeting you and corresponding with you. Take care and have a great week! "First to Fight, Last to Fall. Steel Rain!"

Very Respectfully,

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//

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